

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub A1
1. A method for receiving content of a communication within a network, comprising the steps of:  
receiving information associated with the communication, the information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers on the network, the one of the content servers being closest to an anticipated access point for the communication;  
accessing the referenced content from the one of the content servers; and  
displaying the communication using the received information and the accessed content.
  2. The method of claim 1, wherein the interpreting step further comprises:  
analyzing the received information to determine an instruction set associated with the communication, the instruction set having at least one reference to the content; and  
executing the instruction set to display an initial part of the communication.
  3. The method of claim 2, wherein the accessing step further comprises:  
requesting the content in response to the step of executing the instruction set having the at least one reference to the content; and  
receiving the content from the one of the content servers.
  4. The method of claim 3, wherein the requesting step further comprises:  
generating a request for the content; and  
sending the request to the one of the content servers.
  5. The method of claim 4, wherein the receiving step further comprises  
receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a stream of data representing the content from the one of the content servers and processing the received stream of data before displaying the received stream of data.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a stream of data representing the content from the one of the content servers and processing the received stream of data before displaying the received stream of data.

7. A system in a network for receiving a communication, comprising:  
a processor;  
a display device coupled to the processor;  
a communications interface coupling the processor to the network; and  
the processor being operative to  
receive information associated with the communication, the  
information referencing content stored on one of a plurality of content servers, the one of  
the content servers being closest to an anticipated access point for the communication,  
access the referenced content on the one of the content servers  
through the communications interface, and  
cause the communication to be displayed on the display device  
using the received information and the accessed content.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further operative to:  
determine an instruction set based upon the received information, the  
instruction set being associated with the communication and having at least one reference  
to the content; and  
execute the instruction set to cause an initial part of the communication to  
be displayed on the display device while the referenced content is accessed on the one of  
the content servers.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further operative to  
generate a request for the content and send the request to the one of the content servers  
through the communications interface.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the communication interface is operative  
to receive the requested content in a predefined streamed format from the one of the  
content servers.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the communications interface is further operative to provide the content in the predefined streamed format to the processor; and wherein the processor is further operative to receive the content from the communications interface and process the content to cause the content to be displayed on the display device.

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12. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for receiving a communication using a plurality of content servers within the network, which when executed, the instructions comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one reference to content associated with the communication, the content being stored on one of the content servers that is closest to an anticipated access point for the communication;

receiving a basic amount of information associated with the communication;

displaying a first part of the communication using the basic amount of information;

accessing the content on the one of the content servers; and

displaying a second part of the communication using the accessed content.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying a background color of the communication.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying an animated portion of the communication.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the step of displaying the first part of the communication further comprises displaying a graphical representation of information on the sender of the communication.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the accessing step further comprises:

generating a request for the content based upon the at least one reference to the content;

sending the request to the one of the content servers which locates the content; and

receiving the content from the one of the content servers.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content directly from the one of the content servers without transferring the content to another of the content servers.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving the content from the one of the content servers in a predefined streaming format.